

## In this week's Kukini



■ 15 AW personnel partner with the community and Marines to clean a Bellows landfill **A3**

## News Notes

**Good Conduct Medal returns** — SECAF has approved reinstatement of the Air Force Good Conduct Medal (AFGCM) to USAF Enlisted personnel with a retroactive date of Feb. 6, 2006. Records will be automatically updated by March 31. You can log on to the VMPF to view your authorized Awards and Decorations. Any AFGCM discrepancy found after March 31 should be directed to 15 MSS/DPMPM Awards and Decorations. See the full message (see below) and AFI 36-2803, Para 5.2 and Table 5.2. There will be more information to follow. See: [https://sps.hickam.af.mil/sites/Special\\_Trophies\\_and\\_Award/default.aspx](https://sps.hickam.af.mil/sites/Special_Trophies_and_Award/default.aspx).

**Black History Month Luncheon** — This event will be held on Feb. 27 at 11 a.m. hours at the Hickam AFB Officers Club Lanai. Guest speaker will be Lt Col Alex Jefferson (ret), Tuskegee Airman, historian and author. There will be a special performance by "Sewa Fare," a West African dance group. Tickets are \$16.20 per person with a \$2 club member discount and/or \$1 AAHA member discount. Contact SSgt Taveya Murphy for tickets at [taveya.murphy@hickam.af.mil](mailto:taveya.murphy@hickam.af.mil) or 448-3432, MSgt Anthony Roane at [anthony.roane@hickam.af.mil](mailto:anthony.roane@hickam.af.mil), 449-5464, or MSgt Ben Jefferson at [ben.jefferson@hickam.af.mil](mailto:ben.jefferson@hickam.af.mil), 449-8840.

**Youth baseball coaches needed** — Youth Sports is seeking volunteers to help coach the 2009 Spring/Summer Youth Baseball season. Practice begins March 1, with the season running from March 28 to May 16. Coaches are needed for age divisions 5-10 years. Please contact the Youth Sports office at 448-4492 or stop by the Youth Sports and Fitness Center (Building 1399) if you are interested in helping.

**Warrior Run** — The next Open Warrior Run is March 6. Units must be in formation  
**See NEWS NOTES, A6**

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Courtesy photo

The award-winning Hickam Chapel team welcomes everyone to the National Prayer Luncheon on Tuesday. In front row, from left are Chaplain (Capt) Jin Choi, Chaplain (Maj) Christine Blice-Baum (Senior Protestant Chaplain), Chaplain (Lt Col) Stephen Voyt (Wing Chaplain), Chaplain (Capt) Melvin (Ken) Smith, Chaplain (Capt) James Parrish, and Isabel Delgado (Catholic Religious Education Coordinator). In back are SrA Cory Bloor, TSgt Jeffrey Jurgensmeier, Ketia Viault (Funds Manager), MSgt Kenny Lynch (NCOIC), SSgt Steven Drew, and Trendalyn Money-Fugo (Protestant Religious Education Coordinator).

# Reaffirm 'spiritual readiness' March 3

By Chris Aguinaldo  
Hickam Kukini editor

The staff at Hickam Chapel can attest firsthand to the intensity of the Operational Readiness Inspection.

"We walk in the same boots as our Airmen," said Chaplain (Maj) Christine Blice-Baum, recalling 24-hour ops for the chapel staff during the ORI.

Adds Chaplain (Capt) Melvin Smith, "we did a lot of visitation" and saw how Airmen were tasked not only physically and mentally, but also spiritually.

Under such stress, the focus turns to what's important, like family,

friends and their creator to help see them through, Chaplain Blice-Baum said.

And it's that "spiritual readiness" that they hope to reaffirm at the Hickam National Prayer Luncheon this Tuesday, March 3.

The program will feature scripture reading, a prayer for the nation, sacred music and special guest speaker Chaplain (Brig Gen) David H. Cyr, the Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains.

"There has been a lot of stress," said Chaplain Smith, remembering Airmen turning to him for counsel during those long duty hours. "This luncheon is an opportunity to recharge those spiritual

batteries."

Not only that, the community — including Airmen, their families and base workers — can give thanks to whatever deity they hold holy and share fellowship.

The luncheon also serves a reminder of how the strength of our nation is derived from that "spiritual readiness," said Chaplain Blice-Baum, and how fortunate we are to be in country that protects freedom, including that of religion.

The event begins at 11 a.m. Tickets cost \$7, and are available from First Sergeants, chaplains and at the chapel. Donations to the chapel have helped

make this annual base event, a program of the Wing Commander, possible.

The luncheon itself is inspired by the decades-old National Prayer Breakfasts that celebrate the country's moral and spiritual values.

The chapel also has several other things to celebrate. The staff was recognized as an Outstanding Team during the 15 AW ORI. They also are the 2008 PACAF Large Chapel Program, The Charles I. Carpenter Award winner and were recognized as a 2008 Wing Staff Agency Team of the Year.

Call the Chapel Center at 449-1754.

# Awards spotlight Team Hickam

By Hickam Kukini Staff

While a major highlight of last week was the 15th Airlift Wing's "excellent" rating for the Operational Readiness Inspection, Team Hickam also took the time to honor its outstanding personnel.

Held at Tradewinds Enlisted Club on Friday, the annual Team Hickam Awards highlighted the people who help make this base special. This year's honorees are:

## Airman of the Year

SrA Casey C. Hill, 15 AW  
15th Security Forces Squadron

## NCO of the Year

TSgt Corey J. Crow, 15 AW  
15th Security Forces Squadron

## SNCO Category

MSgt Mark J. Thrower  
HQ PACAF

## CGO Category

Capt Joseph E. Ringer, 15 AW  
15th Security Forces Squadron

## Civilian of the Year,

**Category I**  
Patrick O. Ordinado, 15 AW  
15 CES

## Civilian of the Year,

**Category II**  
Robert K. Hardwick, AMC  
735th Air Mobility Squadron

## Civilian of the Year,

**Category III**  
Laddie C. Carmickle, AMC  
735th Air Mobility Squadron

## Volunteer of the Year

SSgt Tony Jacobsmeier, 15 AW  
15th Civil Engineer Squadron

## First Sergeant of the Year

MSgt Brian J. Brewer, 13 AF  
613th Support Group

## Honor Guard of the Year

SrA Armond Veazie, ACC  
324 IS

## Team of the Year

Current Operations (DOO), 692 IG  
8th Intelligence Squadron

# Purple Heart recipient remains vigilant

By Senior Airman  
Carolyn Viss  
15 Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A deployed Hickam AFB explosive ordnance disposal technician now carries a medal on his chest and metal inside his body after responding to an explosive rocket that was pointed to launch toward Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 3.

Senior Airman Robert Wester, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron, was awarded a Purple Heart in a ceremony there Feb. 4 for suffering injuries when metal fragments hit his leg and back, lodging two inches from his spine.

**See PURPLE HEART, A4**



Senior Airman Robert Wester, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, receives the Purple Heart medal from Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. Airman Wester was awarded the decoration for wounds received in action following an improvised explosive device detonation Jan. 3. He is deployed to Kirkuk Regional Air Base in northern Iraq from Hickam AFB.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Eunique Stevens



ACTION LINE

Kudos for HCH

**Comment:** I had a laundry list of items that needed attention in my home on Kokomalei Street. My list of repairs had begun about 8 months ago, but I could not afford myself the time to make the service call to HCH Mx due to my work schedule.

The lucky employee who spent nearly the entire day at my home was Mr. Chris Koch. I needed a new washer/dryer, my screen door was broken, both bath tubs were leaking through my living room ceiling, my laundry room door had fallen off ... just to name a few.

I was fortunate to have Mr. Koch dispatched to my home as he certainly went the extra mile this day. Not only is he courteous and friendly, he's an awesome repair technician.

My long list of repair items was time consuming and very labor intensive but his hard work paid off; everything is now in perfect working order. Although he knew he had several more service calls after mine (which would make for a very lengthy day for him), he pressed on with a smile.

I have not turned in the customer survey to HCH yet as my plan was to recognize this gentleman via the *Hickam Kukini*. This is the first time I have lived in base housing and thanks to people like Chris Koch, it has been a very good experience.

**Response:** Thank you for bringing this to my attention, and for taking the time to recognize the efforts of Mr. Koch

Customer satisfaction is Hickam Community Housing (HCH) highest priority, and it's obvious that Mr. Koch went above and beyond than what was expected. HCH does more than 10,000 service orders a year with a staff of only 23 technicians and always provides first class service.

However, they also want to hear from their customers if their service is not up to par. They are a great group of professionals, and it's a pleasure to have them as part of Team Hickam.

If you have additional questions or concerns please call them at 423-1650.

*The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, contact my commander's Action Line. If you would like me to get back to you, send your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line e-mail is: 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.*

Got Good News?

Why not share it? E-mail your story idea or press release for Hickam Kukini to:

caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com



Deadline for article submission is end of day Friday for next Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com.

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SARC Hotline ..... 449-7272

**Kukini:** Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

NCO academy readies class of trained, prepared leaders

By SMSgt Vanessa A. Smallsbryant  
Director of Education

The Hickam Professional Military Education Center recently hosted the graduation banquet for Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) Class 09-1 on the evening on Feb. 18 at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club.

More than 300 guests were treated to an entertaining evening highlighted by guest speaker CMSgt Anthony Bishop, Command Chief Master Sergeant, Pacific Air Force Command, Hickam Air Force Base.

Technical Sergeant Kathryn L. Stewart, from Detachment 1, 561 Network Operations Squadron, garnered top honors as the John L. Levitow Award recipient.

Technical Sergeant Christopher Chaiktittirattana, from the 15th Communications Squadron, earned the Academic Achievement and Distinguished Graduate Awards, and Technical Sergeant David C. Frazier, from the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron, earned the Commandant Award.

Other Distinguished Graduates included Technical Sergeant Jeremy W. Price, from the 324th Intelligence Squadron; Technical Sergeant Miguel A. Diaz, from the 56th Air & Space Communications Squadron; Technical Sergeant Ian S. Byczkowski, from the 17th Operational Weather Squadron; and Technical Sergeant Travis L. Strickler, from the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron.

The NCO Academy (NCOA) provides professional military education to prepare technical sergeants to be professional, war-fighting Airmen who can lead and manage Air Force units in the employment of air, space and cyberspace power.

The NCOA is 223 hours of primarily guided discussion classroom methodology, exercises, and case study. The Community of the Air Force (CCAF) grants 11 semester hours for course completion. The course consists of three curriculum



Photo by Oscar A. Hernandez

**TSgt Kathryn Stewart from Detachment 1, 561st Network Operations, center, is congratulated by 15 AW Commander Colonel Giovanni Tuck and Air Force Sergeant's Association (AFSA) Chapter 1550 representative, MSgt Jesse Lee.**

areas: Professions of Arms, Leadership, and Communication Skills.

Students are required to comprehend four graduate attributes. The attributes consist of the military professional, combat leader, unit manager, and the managerial communicator.

Students also performed reveille/retreat formations and participated in weekly Fit-to-Fight activities.

Graduation from the NCOA completes the second of four levels of Air Force professional military education.

Students volunteered their off-duty time in support of the Airmen's Attic, collected canned goods for Living the Word Ministries Food Bank in Honolulu and participated in the 2009 Pro Bowl Classic as flag bearers for during opening ceremonies.

The graduates of NCOA Class 09-1 are:

1 Weather Squadron  
TSgt Estefpany Allen-Allen

8 Intelligence Squadron  
TSgt Christopher Case  
TSgt Shawn Stewart

13 Air Force  
TSgt Jenessa Craig  
TSgt Angela Green

15 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
TSgt Allen Minner

15 Civil Engineer Squadron

TSgt Steven Coffman  
TSgt Mark Farmer  
TSgt David Frazier  
TSgt Jacob Moore

15 Communications Squadron  
TSgt Christopher

15 Comptroller Squadron  
TSgt Jennifer Dunks  
TSgt Theodore Talley

15 Logistics Readiness Squadron  
TSgt Andre Copelin  
TSgt Brian Snow

15 Maintenance Squadron  
TSgt Ryan Vaughn

15 Medical Group  
TSgt Donald Botkins

15 Medical Operations Squadron  
TSgt Angela Custer

15 Medical Support Squadron  
TSgt Esmeralda Flores-Parker  
TSgt Christopher Gibson

15 Mission Support Squadron  
TSgt Christopher Morris

15 Operations Group  
TSgt Robert Pettway

15 Operations Support Squadron  
TSgt Derek Andrews

15 Security Forces Squadron  
TSgt James Gardner

15 Services Squadron  
TSgt Latecia Mcalister

17 Operational Weather Squadron  
TSgt Ian Byczkowski  
TSgt Nigel Fredericks  
TSgt David Kuwanoe

25 Air Support Operations Squadron  
TSgt Travis Stricker

48 Aerial Port Squadron  
TSgt Elo Badua

56 Air & Space Squadron  
TSgt Miguel Diaz

65 Airlift Squadron  
TSgt Robert Green

254 Red Horse  
TSgt Stephen Amaguin

324 Intelligence Squadron  
TSgt Rhonda Bowling  
TSgt Masai Joseph  
TSgt Kelly Luchkiw  
TSgt Jeremy Price  
TSgt Bobby Richardson  
TSgt Victor Willmon

352 Network Warfare Squadron  
TSgt Damon Hutchins

613 Air & Space  
TSgt Matthew Erwin  
TSgt Tyrryne Nichols

735 Air Mobility Squadron  
TSgt Armando Penales

Air Force Element Joint Intelligence Accounting Task Force  
TSgt Jason Jordan

Air Force Element United States Pacific Command  
TSgt Sean Portgee

Detachment 1 561 Network Squadron  
TSgt Keone Peneku  
TSgt Ambrocio Penamendoza  
TSgt Kathryn Stewart  
TSgt Christine Mack

Pacific Air Forces  
TSgt Bryan Gatewood  
TSgt Darren Hooper  
TSgt Bobby Richmond  
TSgt Lourdes Tapia

Pacific Air Force Computer  
TSgt Robert Kesler

Pacific Air Force Postal  
TSgt Frederick Jackson

Serving as a supervisor means acknowledging it's not about you

By Master Sgt. Kenneth Carter  
437th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant

CHARLESTONAIR FORCE BASE, S.C. (AFNS)

— When you volunteer to become a first sergeant, one of the questions asked by senior leaders during the interview process is “Why do you want to be a first sergeant in the U.S. Air Force?” Not going into too much detail and speaking from the heart, my answer was simple, “It’s not about me.”

Now that I am serving as a first sergeant, I am often asked that same question. My response is still the same.

I know you are not interviewed or asked if you want to be a supervisor when you reach that level in your mili-

tary career, but I would like to think your answer would be very similar to mine.

As first sergeants, our primary focus is maintaining a mission-ready enlisted force, helping people reach their full potential and using the expertise and experiences in our military careers to guide and mentor along the way. As supervisors, you have the same focus and, although the path you take to get there may be a little different, the underlying purpose is the same.

Now you may ask yourself, “but why?” The answer is simple: because “we must.” The Air Force has seen to it that we, as first sergeants and supervisors, have all the necessary tools to help each and every member in our unit be successful in his or her career. We are each

given standards, Air Force Instructions and the appropriate level of professional military education throughout the stages of our careers to guide us as leaders, trainers, counselors and mentors.

One of my favorite references is the little brown book, commonly known as AFI 36-2618, The Enlisted Force Structure. When speaking to the “Airmen” at our outstanding Airman Leadership School or First Term Airman Center, I always bring my little brown book. It amazes me how many questions can be answered by reading and then explaining passages from the text. Most of the questions concern supervision and the “do’s” and “don’ts” of being an effective supervisor.

I would challenge you to

read the instruction, which is all of 19 pages front to back, and apply it to everything you do, just like that core value. I think that when looking back on your career and all the great things you have accomplished, the memory most vivid in your mind will be the privilege you earned to be someone’s supervisor, how you took the time to help them grow with a focus on knowing that everyone has something to teach and if you just take the time to listen and get to know them on both a personal and professional level, you can learn something.

As first sergeants and supervisors, we do these things not because we are told we have to, we do these things because “we must” and when asked why, simply say, “It’s not about me.”



# HIANG members make the grade

By Kukini Staff

After the recent Operational Readiness Inspection, 154th Wing members and teams were recognized for their contributions to the overall excellent rating achieved.

The Hawaii Air National Guard members/teams are:

**(Outstanding Performers) Coin Recipients**

- Capt Jason Matsuoka, 154 AMXS
- 2nd Lt Sara Pactol, 154 OSF
- MSgt Blaine Kato, 169 ACWS
- MSgt Kyle Marshman, 203 ARS
- MSgt William Parker, 154 CES
- MSgt Lisa Schweitzer, 154 WG/CP
- TSgt Wendal Au, 154 AMXS
- TSgt Cassy Correa, 154 MDG
- SSgt May Lauofo, 199 FS

**Additional Outstanding Performers**

- Maj Kristof Sills, 199 FS
- Capt Kevin Horton, 199 FS
- MSgt Michael Matsuura, 154 AMXS
- TSgt Gloria Lafitaga, 154 MDG
- TSgt Sterling Nakamura, 154 AMXS
- TSgt Pi'i Reyes, 154 AMXS
- TSgt Michael Sumile, 154 MXS
- TSgt Maria Tatekawa, 154 MDG
- TSgt Dwayne Yoshioka, 154 MXS
- SSgt Salofi Leasiolagi, 154 SFS
- SSgt Benjamin Nitta, 154 AMXS
- SSgt Michael Williams, 154 SFS
- SrA Devin Horiuchi, 154 AMXS
- SrA Warren Morton, 154 MOF
- SrA Wayne Puaoi, 154 AMXS

**Outstanding Teams**

- 154 WG Chapel Team
- 154 WG Command Post
- 154 MXG Personnel & Equipment Unit Deployment Monitors
- 154 MXG Personnel & Equipment Unit Deployment Team
- 12-Man Squadron at COMMANDER WARRIOR
- F-15 Response and Combat Armament Support Team
- Mt. Kaala Radar and Comm Facility Maintenance Team
- Nestable Fuel Tank Build-Up Team



Photo by Kristen Wong, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs

## Wing partners to clean Bellows

On Saturday, a special blessing ceremony at Bellows LF24 was held, marking a successful clean up project. Community members thanked the Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, the Marines and Air Force who worked together on the project. The Environmental Flight of the 15th CES has extensive experience with the area and was brought in to help. Community member and Restoration Advisory Board co-chairman Andrew Jamilla applauded the effort, saying the “the 15th AW was top notch and proactive. I’m an Army vet and I take my hat off to them. Esprit de corps!” Pictured at the blessing are, from left, (in back) Maj Alan Crouch, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs; Col Robert Rice, Base Commander, MCB Hawaii; Capt Tamara Duke, commander, Detachment Two, 18th Force Support Squadron, Bellows Air Force Station; Hawaii Congresswoman Mazie Hirono; Maj David Hudock, Base Environmental, MCB Hawaii; 15 AW Vice Commander Col Dean Wolford; Lt Col Duane Thomas, squadron commander, Civil Engineering Squadron; and Sgt Maj James Sutton, base sergeant major, MCB Hawaii.

## Crime Scene

**Individual charged with trespassing**

A currently barred military family member of a retired Soldier was witnessed and detained at the AMC Terminal. The individual was charged with Hawaii Revised

Statue Code 708-813 Trespassing in the 1st Degree. The individual is currently awaiting a mandatory court appearance and has been barred from Hickam AFB for an additional 5 years.

**Citation totals for Feb. 16–23**

- 1 Abandoned vehicle notice
- 6 Civilian traffic citations
- 19 Moving traffic citations

PURPLE HEART, From A1

He and fellow EOD Staff Sgt. Brandon Pfannenstiel were in the process of analyzing the recovered rocket when it exploded.

“I was dazed and wasn’t expecting it,” said Airman Wester, a Knoxville, Tenn., native. “The blast ... clouded my judgment, so I didn’t know if it was indirect fire or an [improvised explosive device]. I ran 10 feet before I fell to the ground.”

There is now a crater more than a foot deep in downtown Kirkuk, and a one-inch piece of metal lodged inside Airman Wester’s chest, near his lungs.

“We’re very fortunate,” said Airman Wester, who was partially shielded from the blast by a pressure washer and grill in the area.

He and his coworkers both downrange and here at Hickam AFB recognize that the incident could easily have been deadly.

“I am extremely proud of Airman Wester and the Airmen we have, not only in the Air Force, but also in EOD, because we are asking them to do things we [more senior enlisted members] were never asked to do as Airmen,” said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Pitts, 15 CES/EOD flight chief. “We’re very fortunate to have him alive. It’s a complete cat-and-mouse game, and



this time we won.”

Sergeant Pitts and Airman Wester were deployed together to Balad, Iraq, in 2007. As close colleagues

in the EOD career field, Sergeant Pitts knows just how much Airman Wester has risked staying in the career field.

Airman Wester’s good friend from the EOD flight here, Senior Airman William Newman, was killed in an IED incident down-

range in July 2007.

“Hickam AFB and this flight have given a lot for this war,” said Sergeant Pitts, a 20-year veteran of the career field. “For him to reenlist and volunteer to continuously deploy, risking his life for people he doesn’t know, is incredible, and it takes a special person to do that. I can’t thank him enough.

“We are lucky to have him here at Hickam and lucky he’s coming home.”

Still deployed, Airman Wester frequently walks past the blast site.

“Every time ... I am thankful, and more than anything I am more vigilant,” he said.

Airman Wester is scheduled to return to Hickam in April.

*Senior Airman Jessica Lockoski, 506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs, contributed to this article.*

**Staff Sgt. Brandon Pfannenstiel, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, receives the Purple Heart medal from Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander.**

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Eunique Stevens



# Services held today for Hickam sergeant who died on Sunday

15 AW Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Willie Davis, 15th Airlift Wing Command Post controller, died at Queens Medical Center at 5:06 p.m. Sunday following a motorcycle accident at approximately 4:25 p.m. on H-1 Freeway in Honolulu.

“The passing of Sergeant Davis is a tragic loss to our U.S. Air Force and Hickam Air



**Tech. Sgt. Willie Davis** Force Base,” said Col. Giovanni Tuck, 15 AW commander. “He was an outstanding Airman and team member who will be missed by his many friends and Air Force family members. Our deepest sympathies

and prayers go to Sergeant Davis’s coworkers, family and loved ones.”

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

A memorial service for family and friends will be held at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 27 at the Nelles Chapel on Hickam AFB.

For more information, call 15 AW Public Affairs at 449-1525.

## Hickam AFB named a Tree City USA

Hickam AFB, HI has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. It is the eleventh year Hickam AFB has received this national recognition.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Hickam AFB has met the four standards to become a

Tree City USA community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

*Courtesy Arbor Day Foundation.*



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Aquino

## The air up there

Staff Sgt. Andrew Hedin, flying in an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, observes another Pave Hawk over Farallon Island, which sits some 30 miles west of San Francisco. The helicopters and their crews, from the California Air National Guard’s 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., are supporting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by transporting new photovoltaic batteries to power a lighthouse and workshop at the FWS research facility on the island. Sergeant Hedin is an HH-60G flight engineer with the 129th RQW.

NEWS NOTES, From A1

NLT 0655, Honor Guard/National Anthem will begin at 0700. For safety reasons, unit guidons will not be allowed during the run. Form up on the grassy mall area between 15 AW HQ Bldg and Freedom Tower, 4 columns facing 8th St.

**Women’s History Month observed** — Come enjoy the Big Hat Brunch on Saturday, March 7 at the Enlisted Club, 1030. The theme is Enrich your life: Mind, Body and Spirit. Cost: \$22 per person; features a fashion show, local vendor booths, and guest speakers sharing information on women’s health and wellness issues. There’s also a chance to win prizes, too. Wearing of a “big” hat is encouraged for this event. Contact Lisa Boothe at 449-8504 or Carole Reynolds 291-7236 for information and/or tickets.

**Take Crews Into Shape wellness challenge** — This 4-week challenge from March 1-31, brings people together for a team approach to wellness. The entire DoD family is invited. Register your crew with the Navy Environmental Health Center by Feb. 28. For rules, registration and leader guide, go to [http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/crews\\_into\\_shape](http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/crews_into_shape). Contact: Amy Robitschek, 448-6216.

**Walk in EZ tax filing available at tax center** — The Hickam Tax Center will be accepting walk-ins for 1040EZ filers only. All other filers please schedule an appointment by contacting your unit tax preparer. If they have no available appointments please call the Tax Center at 448-0713 to schedule an appointment.

**Hats Off needs volunteers**

— The American Red Cross needs volunteers on Saturday, March 14 for their annual “Hats Off to the American Red Cross” event. 15 AW and tenant partners will collect donations from motorists on the corner of McCully and Kapiolani Blvd from 0900 to 1400. The money will remain in Hawaii and be used to help the Hawaii State Chapter support local services for Hawaii’s people. Please contact the POC, Maj Cindy Robison, 690-5701 or e-mail [cynthia.robison@hickam.af.mil](mailto:cynthia.robison@hickam.af.mil).

**Hickam Barber Shop Increase** — Based on the current survey while still allowing for a considerable saving to service members, hair cut prices will increase on March 16 from \$7.50 to \$7.75 for regular haircuts. Style cuts will increase from \$9.50 to \$9.75.